

## Message Text

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44

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 PC-15 USIA-15 IO-14 DODE-00 AGR-20

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R 050820Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1671

AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS NOUAKCHOTT 1068

AFDROUGHT

DAKAR FOR WOOD, FFPO, ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: PL-480 EMERGENCY GRAIN

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 763

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING DESCRIPTION GIRM GRAIN DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AND USE FUNDS GENERATED THROUGH SALES PL-480 AND OTHER EMERGENCY GRAIN SUPPLIES INTENDED FOR BACKGROUND USE BY WOOD, FFPO, RDO DAKAR, IN PREPARATION FOR AUDIT TEAM. SEE REFTEL FOR FURTHER BACKGROUND.

1. BEGINNING IN LATE 1972, GIRM INSTITUTED SIMPLE YET EFFECTIVE SYSTEM OF GRAIN RATIONING AND DISTRIBUTION. TRANSPORT TO INTERIOR FROM PORT OF ENTRY (ROSSO OR NOUAKCHOTT) IS HANDLED BY MILITARY USING GOVT TRUCK FLEET OR PRIVATE TRANSPORTERS. DISTRIBUTION BASED ON ADMINISTRATIVE REGION, WITH REGIONAL GOVERNOR SETTING FORTH HIS NEEDS BASED ON POPULATION ESTIMATES AND SEVERITY OF DROUGHT CONDITIONS. FINAL DECISION ON TONNAGE ALLOCATED TO EACH REGION IS MADE BY GIRM DROUGHT RELIEF COORDINATOR (MINHEALTH). ALLOCATION WITHIN EACH REGION IS HANDLED BY MILITARY-TERRITORIAL ADMINISTRATION-POLITICAL PARTY SECRETARY TRIUMVIRATE, WHO CONTROL RATIONING SYSTEM AND DECIDE

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UPON FREE VERSUS PAID DISTRIBUTION. LOCAL PREFECT OR DEPUTY

GOVERNOR AND POLITICAL PARTY SECRETARY OR THEIR DESIGNATED DEPUTY INTERVIEW HEADS OF FAMILY AND ISSUE COLOR-CODED RATION CARDS: E.G. BLUE FOR FREE DISTRIBUTION AND RED FOR PAID DISTRIBUTION. THESE OFFICIALS MUST AGREE THAT RECIPIENT CANNOT AFFORD PAY FOR GRAIN. OTHERWISE, RECIPIENT MUST PAY 15 CFAF PER KILO. SAME TEAM ALSO DECIDES HOW MUCH GRAIN EACH FAMILY IS ENTITLED TO PER MONTH. RULE OF THUMB HAS BEEN 15 KILOS PER MONTH PER ADULT WHEN AVAILABLE.

3. ONCE RECIPIENT IS ISSUED RATION CARD, HE MUST APPLY TO PREFECT OR DEPUTY FOR CHIT ENTITLING HIM TO AMOUNT OF GRAIN NOTED ON RATION CARD. HE PRESENTS THIS CHIT AND HIS RATION CARD TO MILITARY OFFICER OR SENIOR NCO AT DISTRIBUTION CENTER. OFFICER ACCEPTS CHIT, MARKS RATION CARD ACCORDINGLY AND ISSUES GRAIN RATION. CHIT IS EVENTUALLY RETURNED TO NOUAKCHOTT VIA REGIONAL CAPITAL ALONG WITH ACCOUNTING FORMS FILLED OUT BY MILITARY AT EACH DEISTRIBUTION CENTER. MILITARY AT EACH CENTER ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCOUNTING CLOSELY FOR GRAIN RECEIVED AND DISBURSED. WHEN TRANSPORT IS AVAILABLE, DISTRIBUTION IS MADE TO NOMAD ENCAMPMENTS AND SMALL VILLAGES.

4. TO DATE, GIRM HAS BEEN SELLING ABOUT 50 PERCENT OF ALL GRAIN DISTRIBUTED. PROCEEDS FROM SALE ARE PLACED IN SPECIAL DROUGHT EMERGENCY FUND AT NATIONAL TREASURY CONTROLLED BY MINHEALTH. OTHER CONTRIBUTORS TO FUND INCLUDE BUSINESSES WHO ARE EXPECTED KICK IN ONE PERCENT OF THEIR YEARLY TURN-OVER AND CIVIL SERVANTS WHO MUST CONTRIBUTE ONE DAY'S SALARY PER MONTH. PROCEEDS FROM FUND ARE USED ONLY FOR DROUGHT RELATED EXPENDITURES, FOR INSTANCE: THE PURCHASE OF TRUCKS, SPARE PARTS AND GASOLINE FOR TRANSPORT OF GRAIN, PAYMENTS TO PRIVATE TRUCKERS WHO SUPPLEMENT GOVT GRAIN TRANSPORT EFFORT, PURCHASE OF WATER TANK TRUCKS TO SUPPLY NOMADIC ENCAMPMENTS, PURCHASE OF WATER SYSTEM AND WELL EQUIPMENT, PURCHASE OF SEEDS ETC.

5. TO DATE, THIS SYSTEM HAS WORKED REMARKABLY SMOOTHLY, WITH LITTLE BLACK MARKETEERING IN EVIDENCE. IN EFFECT, GIRM HAS CREATED A GOVERNMENT MONOPOLY IN THE GRAIN TRADE. IT DIRECTLY DISTRIBUTES EMERGENCY GRAINS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF RICE, WHICH IS IMPORTED AND MARKETED BY A GOVERNMENT-OWNED CORPORATION, SONIMEX. THIS MONOPOLY WILL, OF COURSE, BEGIN TO BREAK DOWN

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WITH THE ARRIVAL OF NEWLY HARVESTED GRAINS ON THE MARKET BEGINNING THIS MONTH. ESTIMATES FOR N94;3 5 4-,&3 \*49. 30 OO 40 PERCENT OF NORMAL, LEAVING A SHORT-FALL OF SOME 100,000 METRIC TONS TO BE FILLED THROUGH THE RATIONING SYSTEM.

6. ONE POTENTIAL PROBLEM FOR OUR AUDITORS DOING END USE CHECKS IS THAT AT NO POINT, ONCE DONOR SHIPMENTS RECEIVED AT PORTS OF ENTRY, IS THERE ANY FURTHER CITATION OF COUNTRY OF ORIGIN.

NOTE ALSO US BILATERAL GRAIN DELIVERIES ONLY BEGAN REACHING  
ROSSO IN LATE OCTOBER.MURPHY

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
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